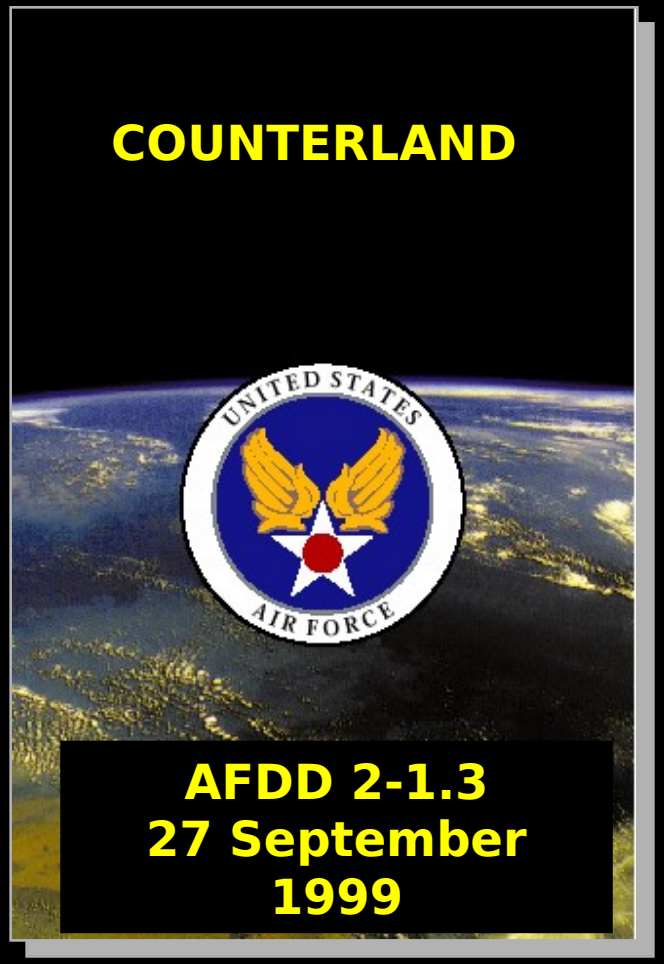
AFDD 2-1.3

USAF DOCTRINE on COUNTERLAND OPERATIONS



Overview

- Background
- Counterland Basics
- Air Interdiction
- Close Air Support
- Command and Control
- Planning and Executing
- Training and Education

AF DOCTRINE PUBLICATIONS HEIRARCHY

AFDD 1	**Basic Doctrine**
AFDD 2-1 *Air Warfare*	**Operational Doctrine**
AFDD 2-1.3 *Counterland*	
AFDD 3-1 Series*	**Tactical Doctrine**

* Volume 26 for the TACS, aircraft-specific volumes for CAS and AI tactics

RELATED JOINT DOCTRINE PUBLICATIONS

JP 3-0
Joint Ops

JP 3-03
Interdictio

Doc

JP 3-09
Joint Fire Support

Operational

JP 3-09.3
Joint TTP for CAS

Tactical Doctrine

ALSA MULTI-SERVICE DOCTRINE PUBLICATIONS

MTTP TAGS

MTTP J-FIRE

MTTP JAAT

Doctrine

MTTP Joint STARS

MTTP Targeting

Tactical

Counterland Basics

"COUNTERLAND" DEFINED

COUNTERLAND: **Operations conducted to attain and maintain a desired degree of superiority over surface operations by the destruction, disrupting, delaying, diverting, or other neutralization of enemy forces. The main objectives of Counterland operations are to dominate the surface environment and prevent the opponent from doing the same. (AFDD 1)**

- **The Counterland *function* is executed through close air support (CAS) and air interdiction (AI) *missions***

AERIAL MANEUVER

- **Air Interdiction is a form of independent *aerial maneuver*. Its purpose is to destroy / disrupt / delay / divert enemy surface combat power before it can be brought to bear against friendly forces, or otherwise achieve its objectives.**

- **Close Air Support, and most AI missions flown short of the FSCL, represent *aerial maneuver* flown in support of *ground maneuver***

- **Airpower is not held in reserve**

Air Interdiction

“AIR INTERDICTION”

- ***Air Interdiction*** **occurs beyond the close proximity range which helps to define CAS, and has the effect of preventing enemy combat potential from effectively engaging friendly forces**
  - **Undesirable to overlap CAS and AI procedures**
  - **Depends on how CAS is bounded, which in turn depends on what “close proximity” and “detailed integration” mean**

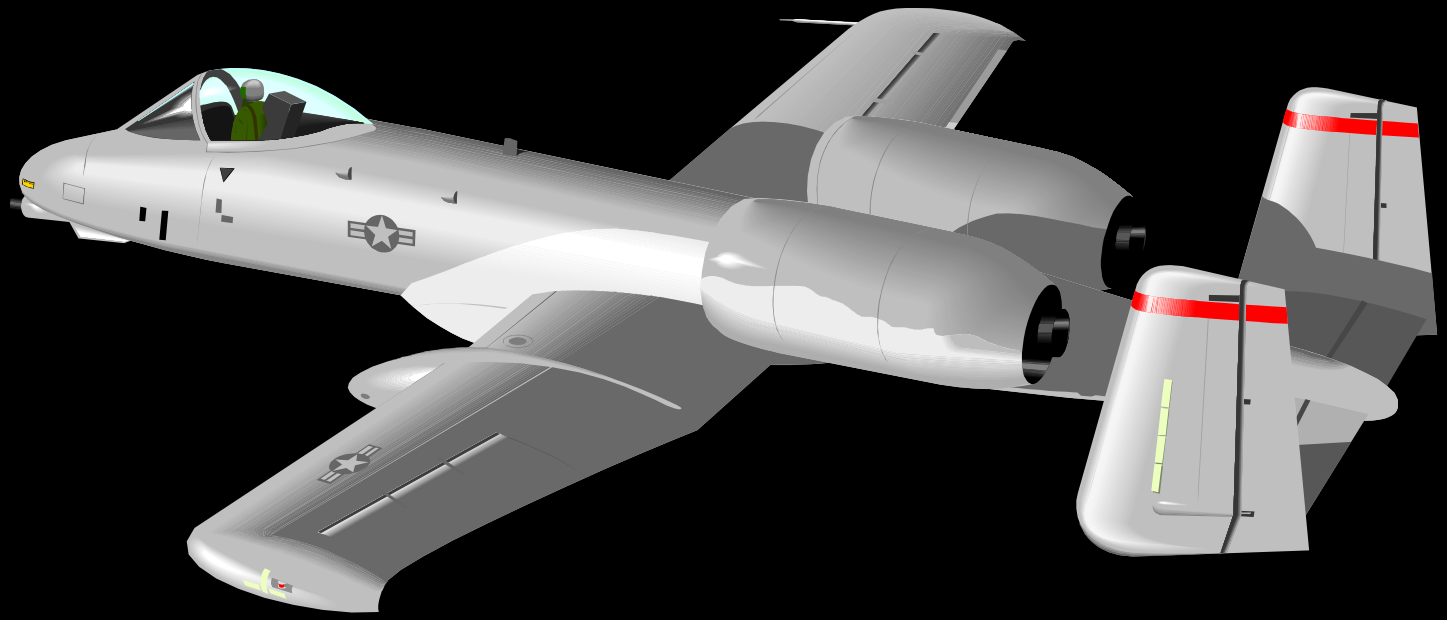
"AIR INTERDICTION" DEFINED

AIR INTERDICTION:

Operations conducted to divert, disrupt, delay, or destroy enemy surface military potential before it can be used effectively against friendly forces, or otherwise achieve its objectives

AFDD 2-1.3 *Counterland*

Close Air Support



CAS DEFINED

From JP 1-02:

Air action by fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft against hostile targets which are in close proximity to friendly forces and which require detailed integration of each air mission with the fire and movement of those forces.

“CLOSE PROXIMITY”

- ***Close Air Support (CAS)* is currently defined by “close proximity” to friendlies which requires detailed integration. How close is “close?”**
  - **Issues of targeting direction and fratricide prevention**
  - **Not clearly defined; joint doctrine is inconsistent**
  - **CAS typically defined operationally by the need for terminal attack control**

"CLOSE PROXIMITY" DEFINED

CLOSE PROXIMITY:

As used in relation to close air support, close proximity refers to the distance within which some form of terminal attack control is required for targeting direction and fratricide prevention.

AFDD 2-1.3 *Counterland*

“DETAILED INTEGRATION”

- Required to integrate air operations with surface maneuver and organic fire support
- Required for proper timing and effect of aerospace power in relation to the ground battle
- “Preponderance of effect” typically bounded by the maximum range of organic weapons such as artillery/MLRS
- Required to minimize fratricide

"DETAILED INTEGRATION" DEFINED

DETAILED INTEGRATION*:*

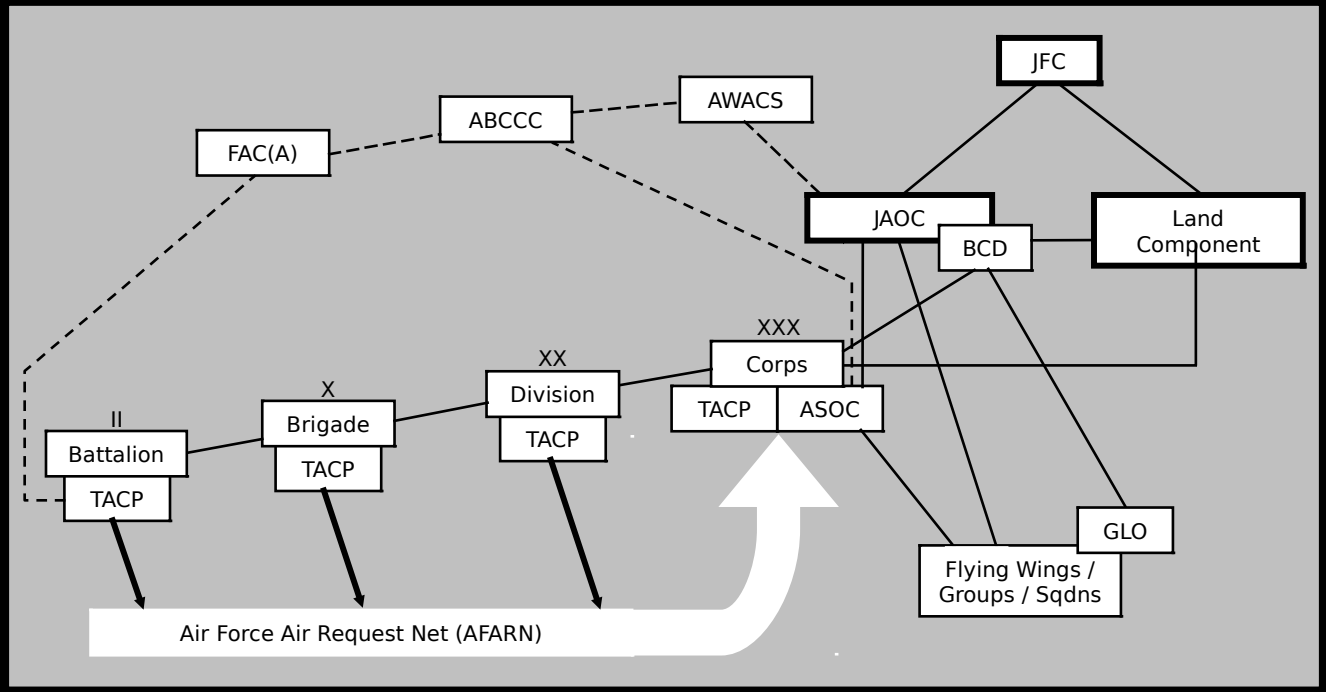
As used in relation to close air support, detailed integration refers to the level of coordination required to achieve the desired effects without overly restricting CAS attacks, surface firepower, or the ground scheme of maneuver. It is also necessary to protect aircraft from the unintended effects of friendly surface fire. The maximum range requiring detailed integration is typically bounded by the range at which organic surface firepower provides the preponderance of effect on the enemy.

AFDD 2-1.3 *Counterland*

Command and Control of Counterland Operations

Controlling Counterland Operations

Theater Air Control System



Theater Air Ground System

Air Interdiction Connectivity

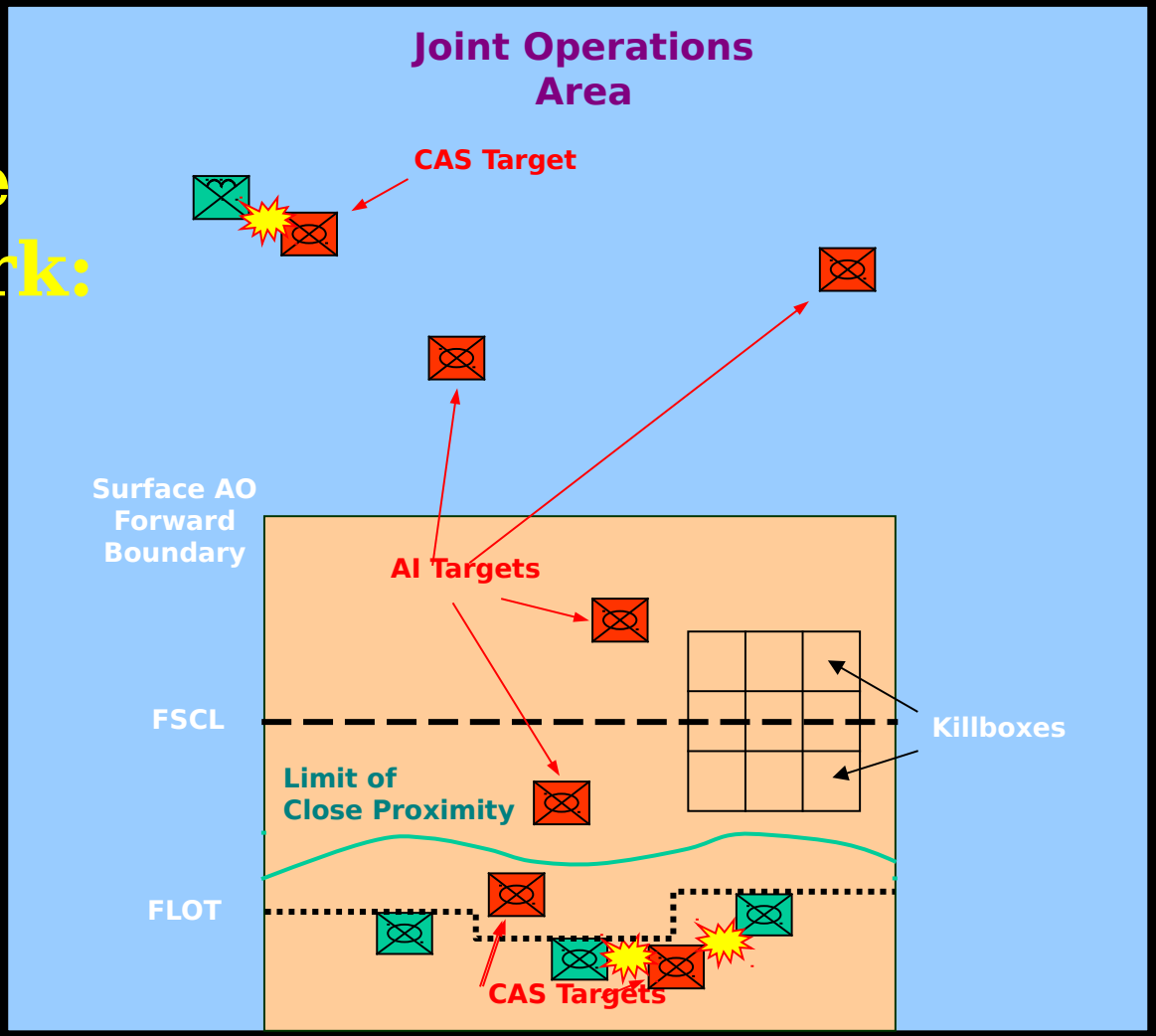
- **Target nomination process**
  - Component planning / coordination / liaison
- **Last-minute updates**
  - BCD / Combat Operations integration
- **Sensor to shooter linkage**
  - Real-time targeting
  - Time critical targets / time sensitive targets

TYPES OF CAS "CONTROL"

- **Positive Control a hallmark of CAS**
- **Positive, Direct "Control"**
  - **Used within in visual range of the target**
- **Positive, Indirect "Control" (expanded for BVR situations)**
  - **Useful in many tactical situations**
  - **Can use sensors or observers to see the target**
  - **Or, can use other methods to verify the target area while maintaining positive control**
- **Reasonable Assurance "Control"**
  - **Treated as an emergency situation by JP 3-09.3**
  - **NOT meant to be a standard form of procedural CAS control**

Fire Support Coordination Measures

Battlespace Framework:



FSCL

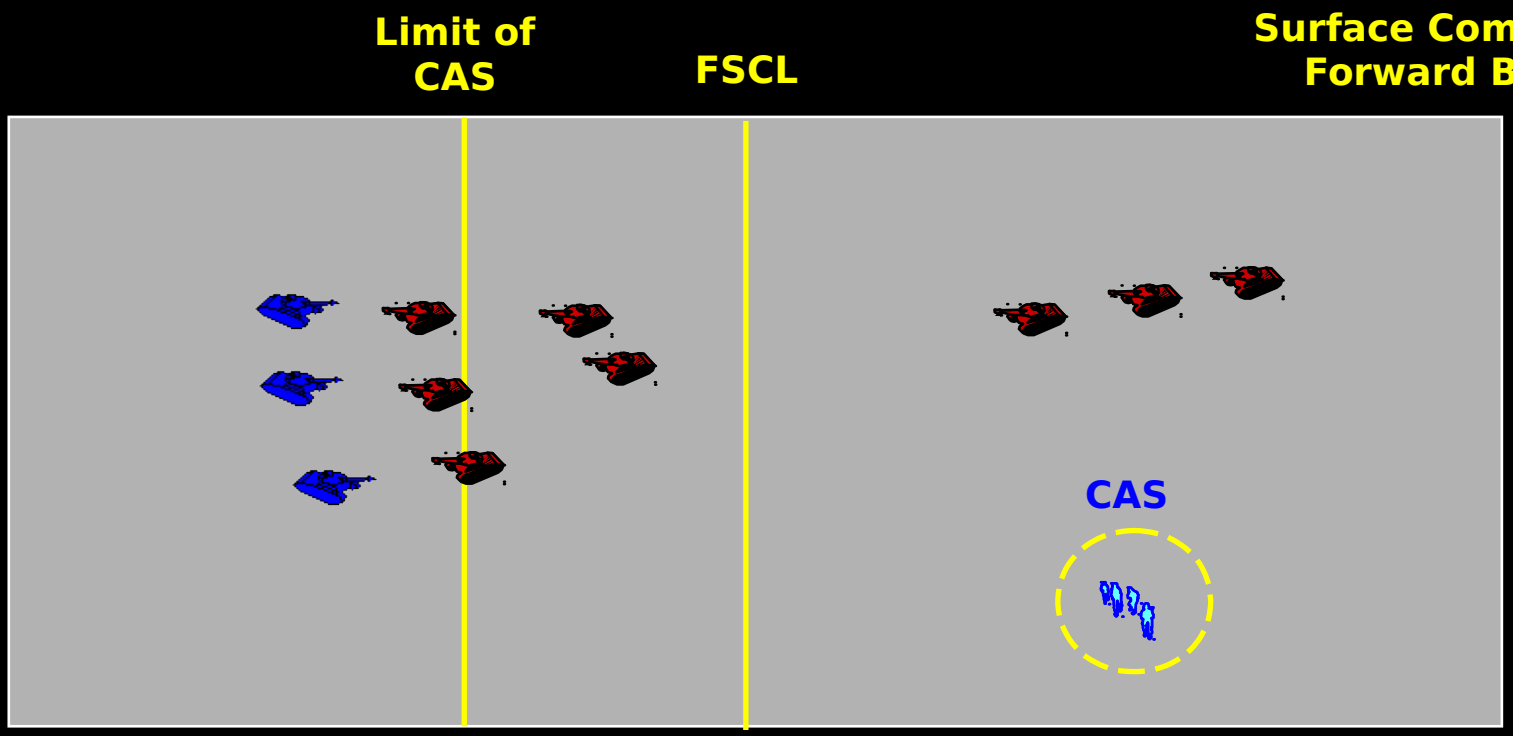
- All missions flown short of the Fire Support Coordination Line (FSCL) normally operate through the theater air-ground system (TAGS)

- Delineates C2 procedures, does not define mission type
  - Change from DESERT STORM where FSCL separated CAS & AI and led to sanctuary problems
  - NAFs and regional AF's have updated their SOPs

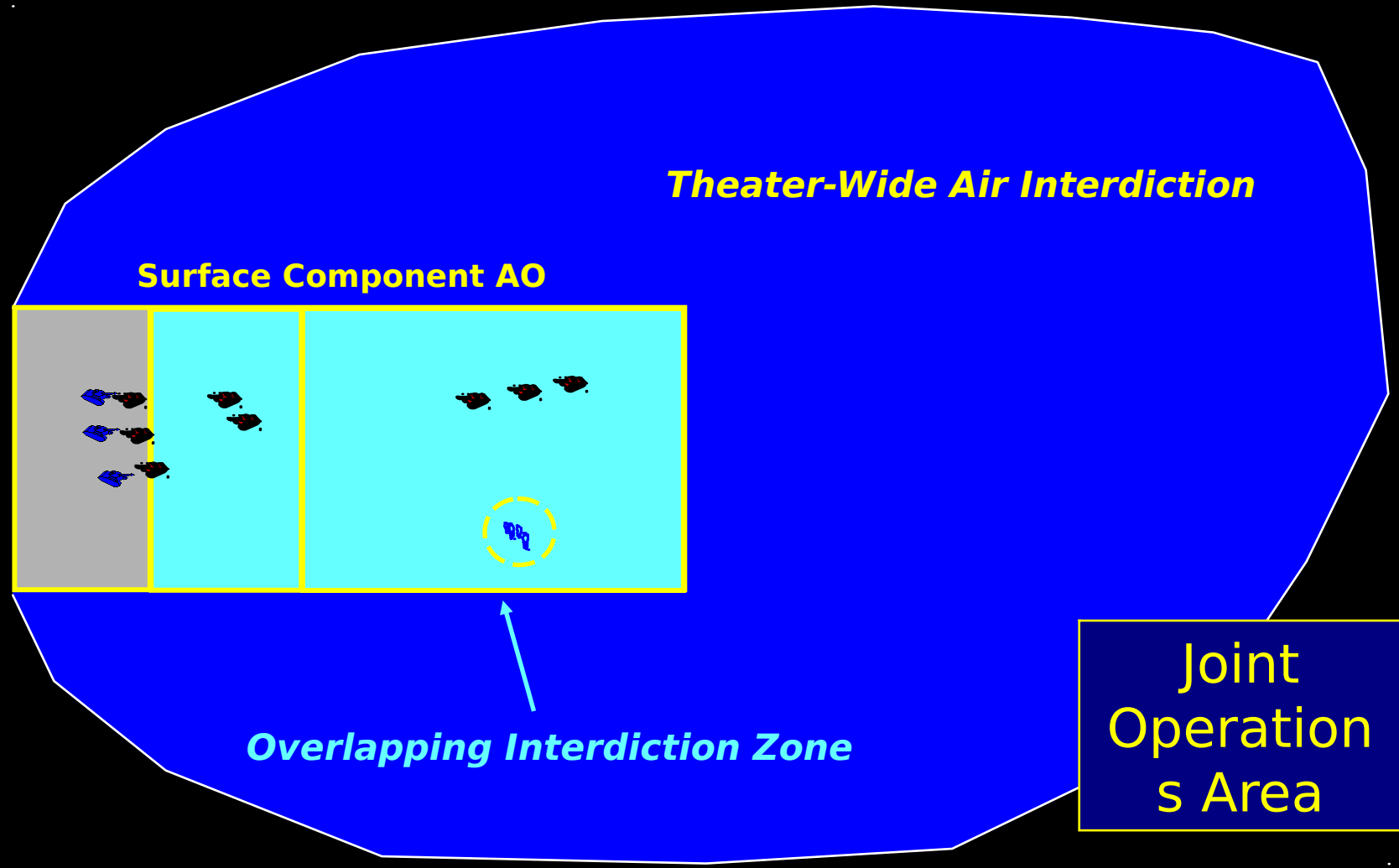
- JP 3-03 states that the FSCL does not, BY DEFINITION, define the boundary between CAS and AI

- AF thought is the "preponderance of effect" should set the FSCL depth, which would put it close to or just beyond the CAS/AI boundary of "close proximity" and "detailed integration"

THE SURFACE PLAYING FIELD



THE ENTIRE *PLAYING FIELD*

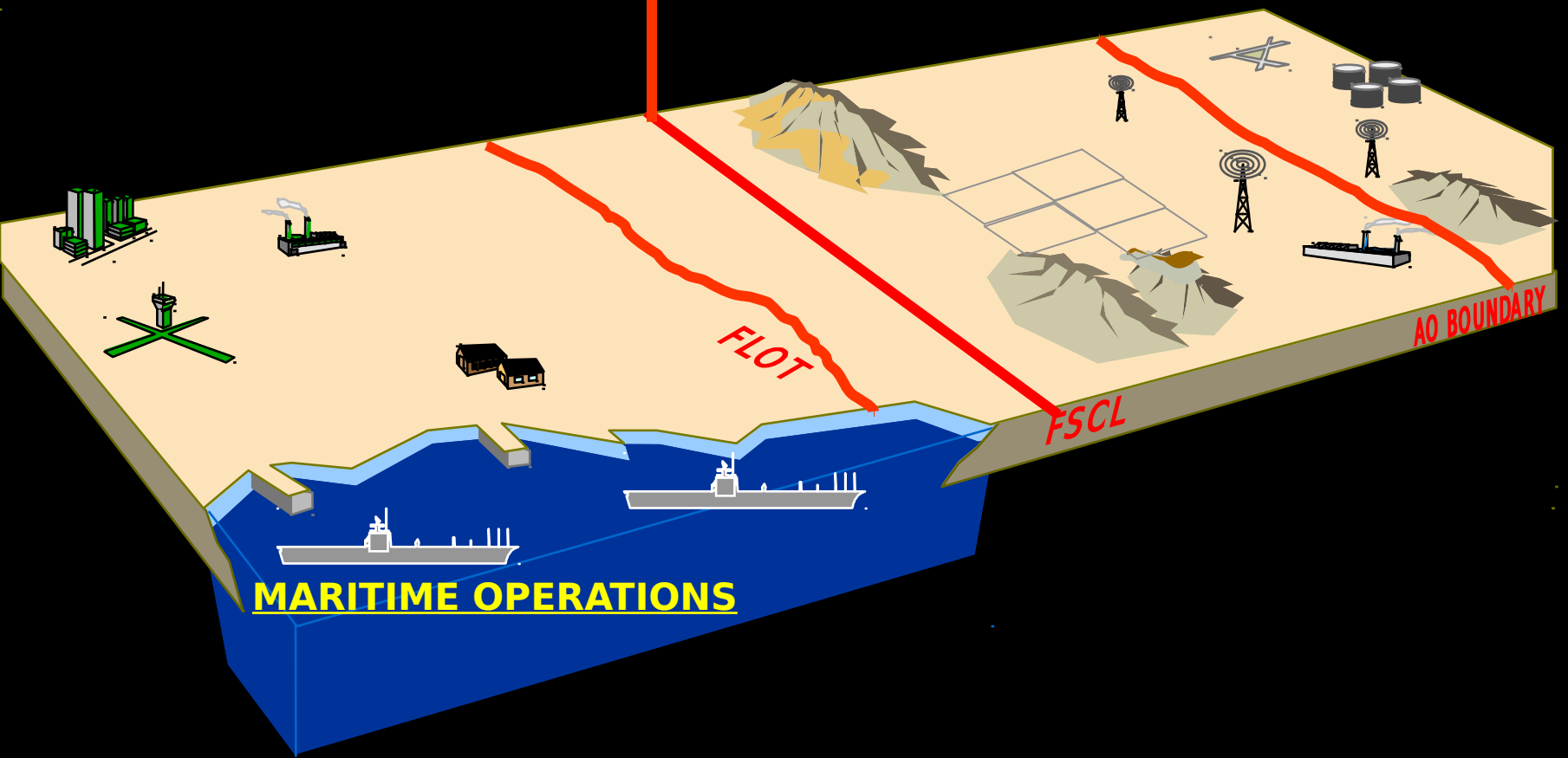


Airpower Functions
(circa 1991)

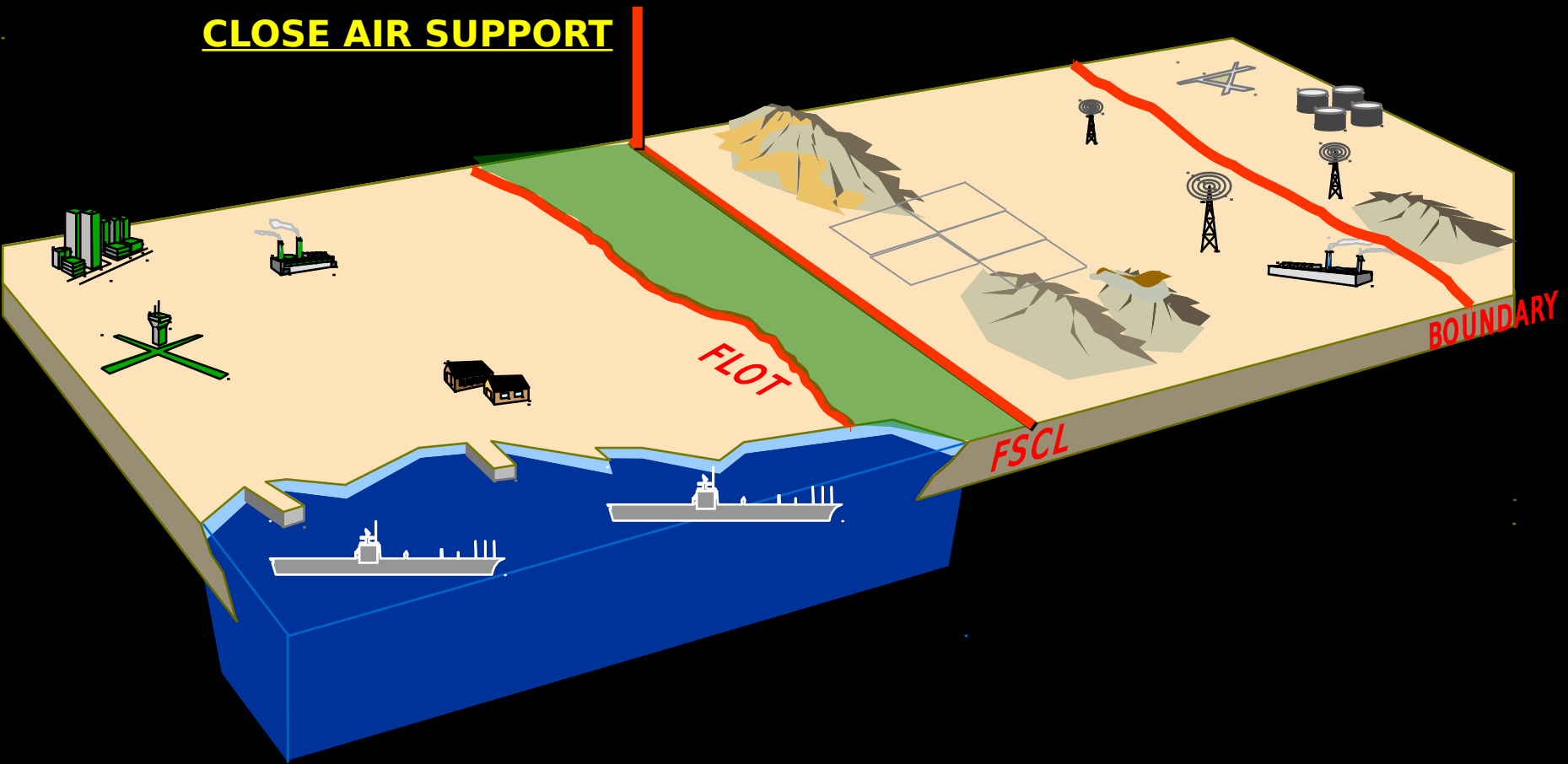
Counterair & Strategic Attack

AIR INTERDICTION

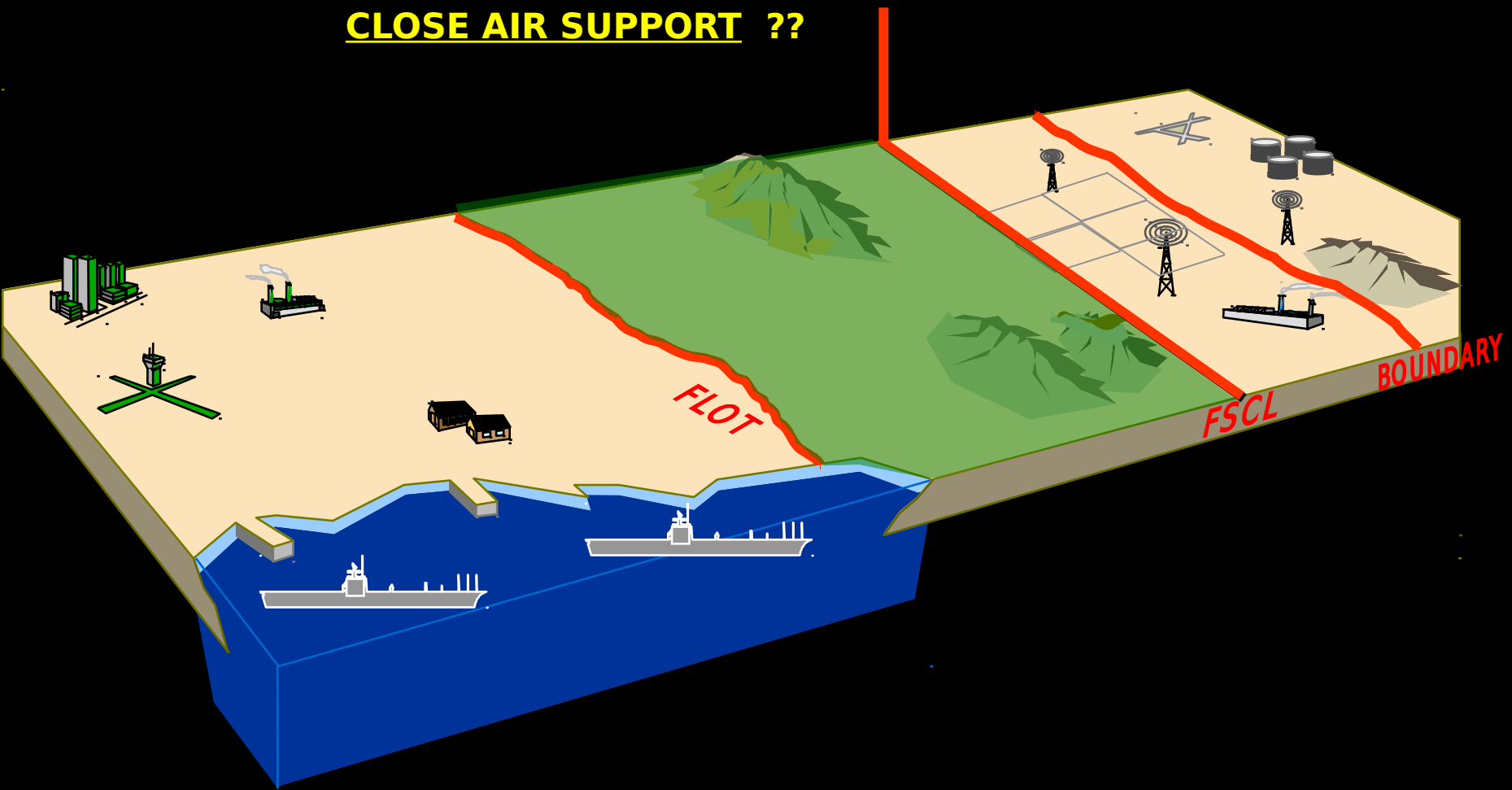
CLOSE AIR SUPPORT



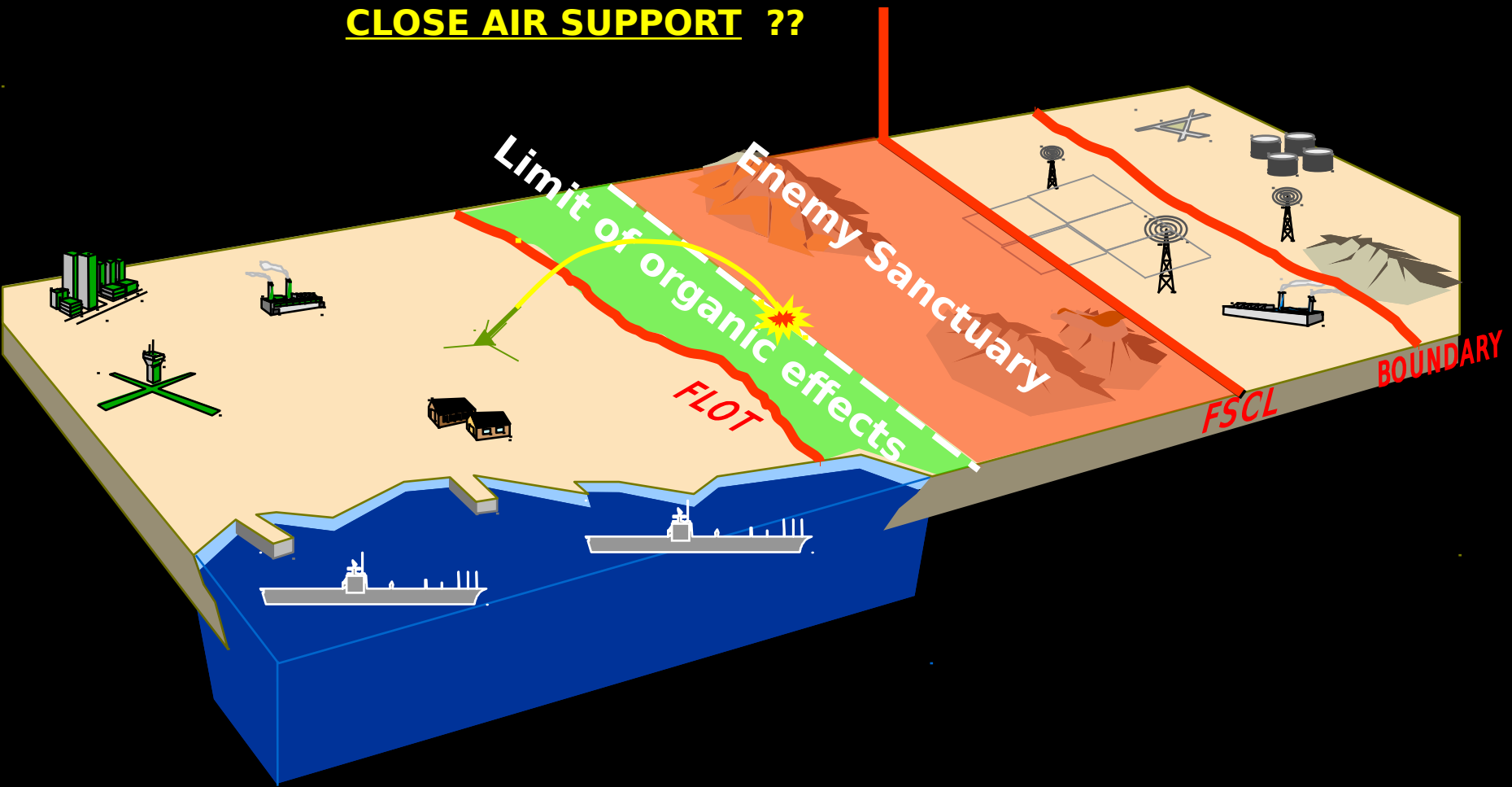
Airpower Functions
(circa 1991)



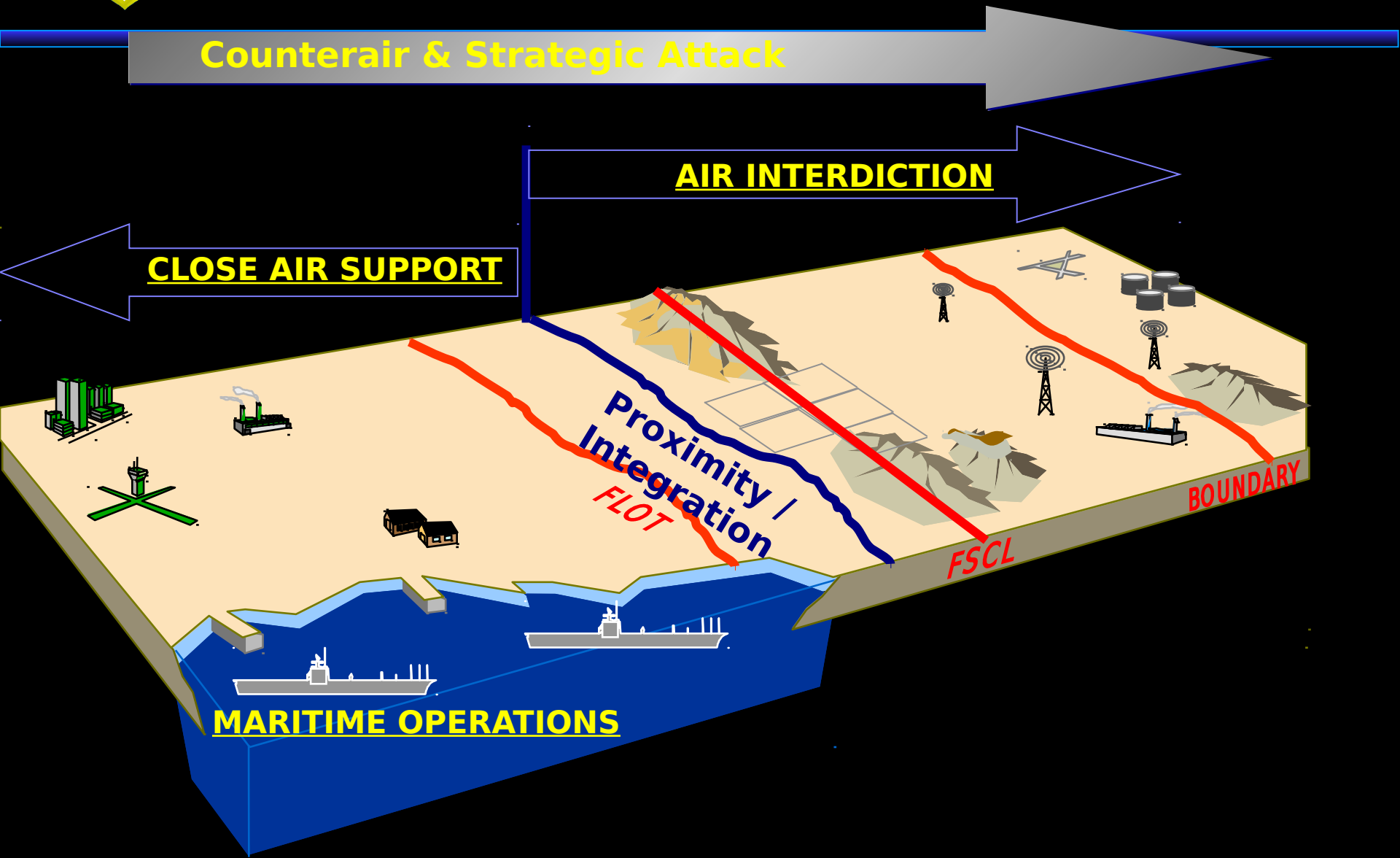
Airpower Functions
(circa 1991)



Unintended Consequences



Airpower Functions Today



NEED FOR DEFINITIONS

- **Operators require a clear, *STANDARDIZED* definition of the various missions, and the procedural control or coordination required for each**
- **AOC and ASOC/TACP planning staffs require a *STANDARDIZED* definition of the various missions, and who has the target nomination and timing priority for each**
  - **Settled by JP 3-09 (?)**
  - **Inside surface AO, ground commander sets timing and priority for non-JFC directed theater-wide missions**
  - **Inside surface AO, good communication and coordination of all missions is mandatory**

NEED FOR DEFINITIONS

- **Consistent definitions for what “CAS” and “AI” are across the joint force**
  - **General enough for universal applicability**
  - **Specific enough for useful guidance**
  - **Common understanding of how Close Proximity and Detailed Integration bound CAS**
  - **Consistent, but flexible, options for delineating where the various missions are flown (doctrinally NOT the FSCL)**

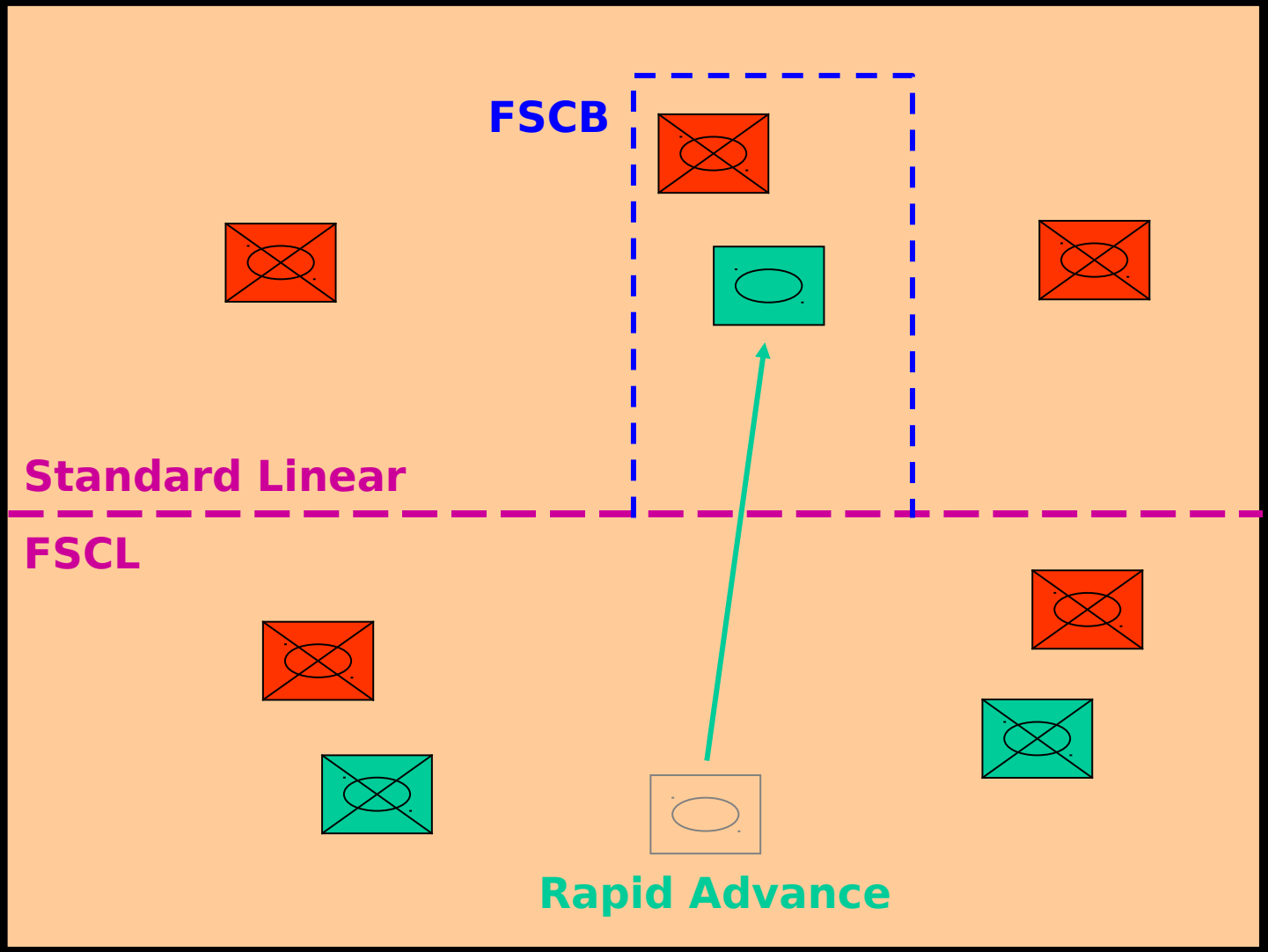
- **Consistent definition of “FSCL” (a concept, *not* a set distance!)**
  - **Allow use of additional coordinating measures as appropriate (such as CFC Korea’s *GCC Forward Boundary*)**
  - **Must be workable in all theaters, or is useless**

KILLBOXES

"A generic term for airspace control measure used for controlling air-ground ops." AFDD 2-1.3

- Usually employed through mapgrids common to both___air and ground components
- Increases real-time flexibility to attack mobile targets
- Authority to open/close killboxes is normally specified in Theater TTP, but normally rests with the ACA
- Opening killboxes inside the FSCL requires LCC/GCC approval

Fire Support Coordination Box



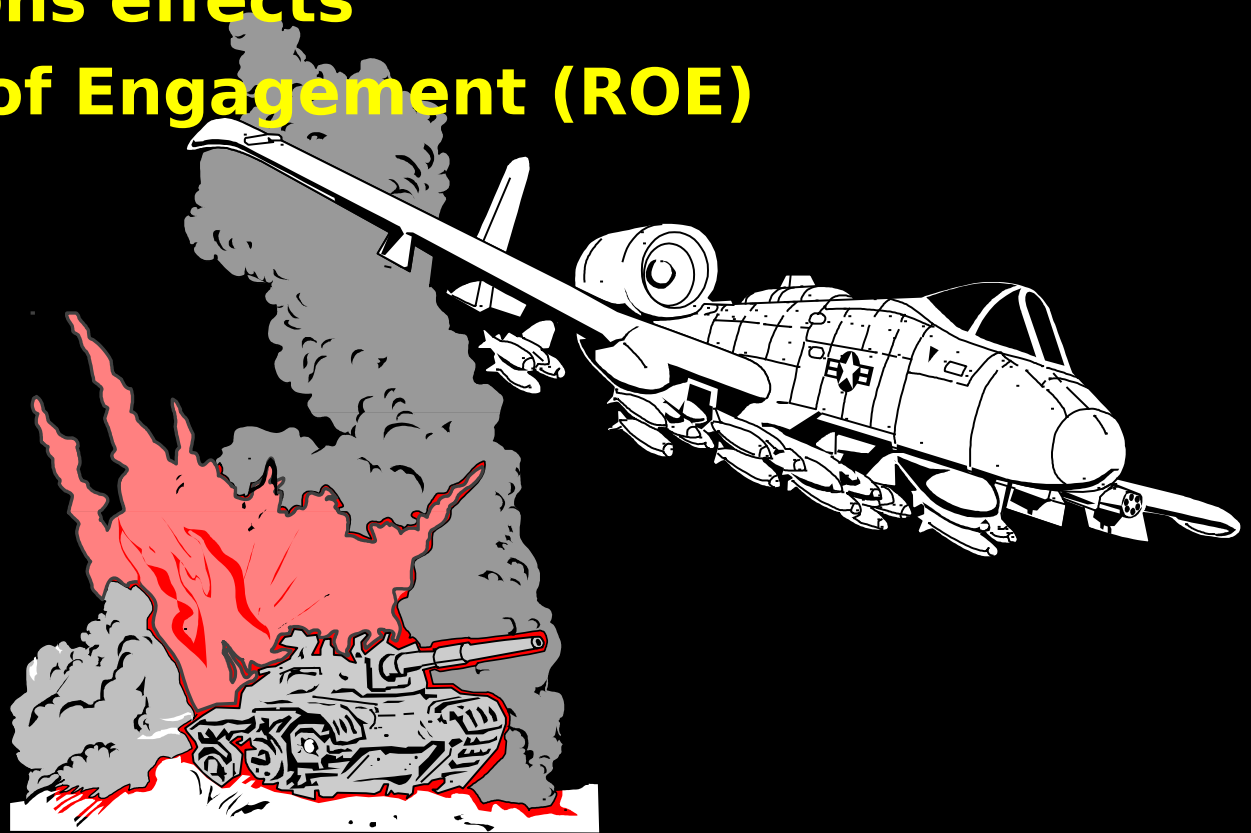
Planning and Executing Counterland

Basic Considerations

- Integration of Theater Air Resources
- Air Superiority
- Basing of Forces
- JAOP
  - Apportionment
  - Allocation
  - Re-targeting authority
- Air-Ground Synergies

Targeting

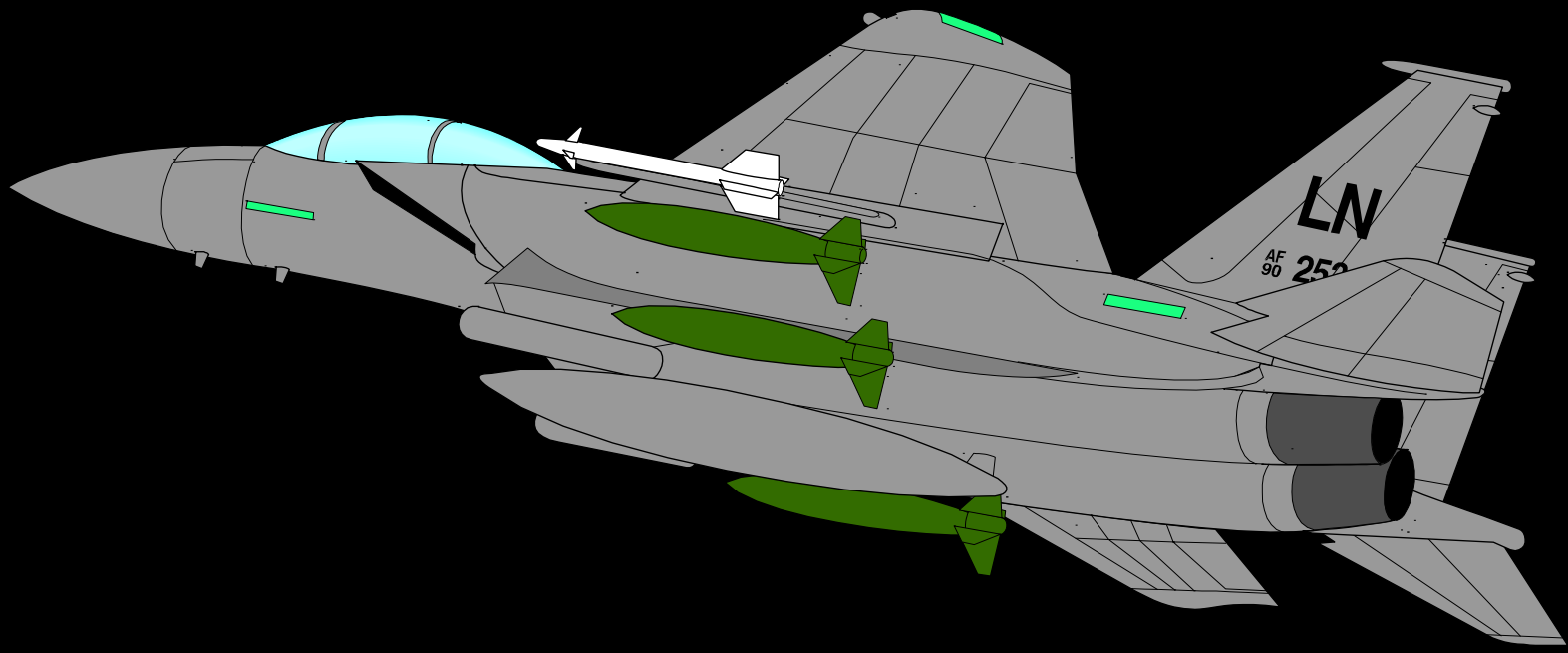
- Criticality and Vulnerability
- Environmental conditions
- Weapons effects
- Rules of Engagement (ROE)



Operations

- **Planning Flexibility**
- **Combat Assessment**
- **Operational Assessment**
- **Support**
  - **Munitions**
  - **Air Refueling**

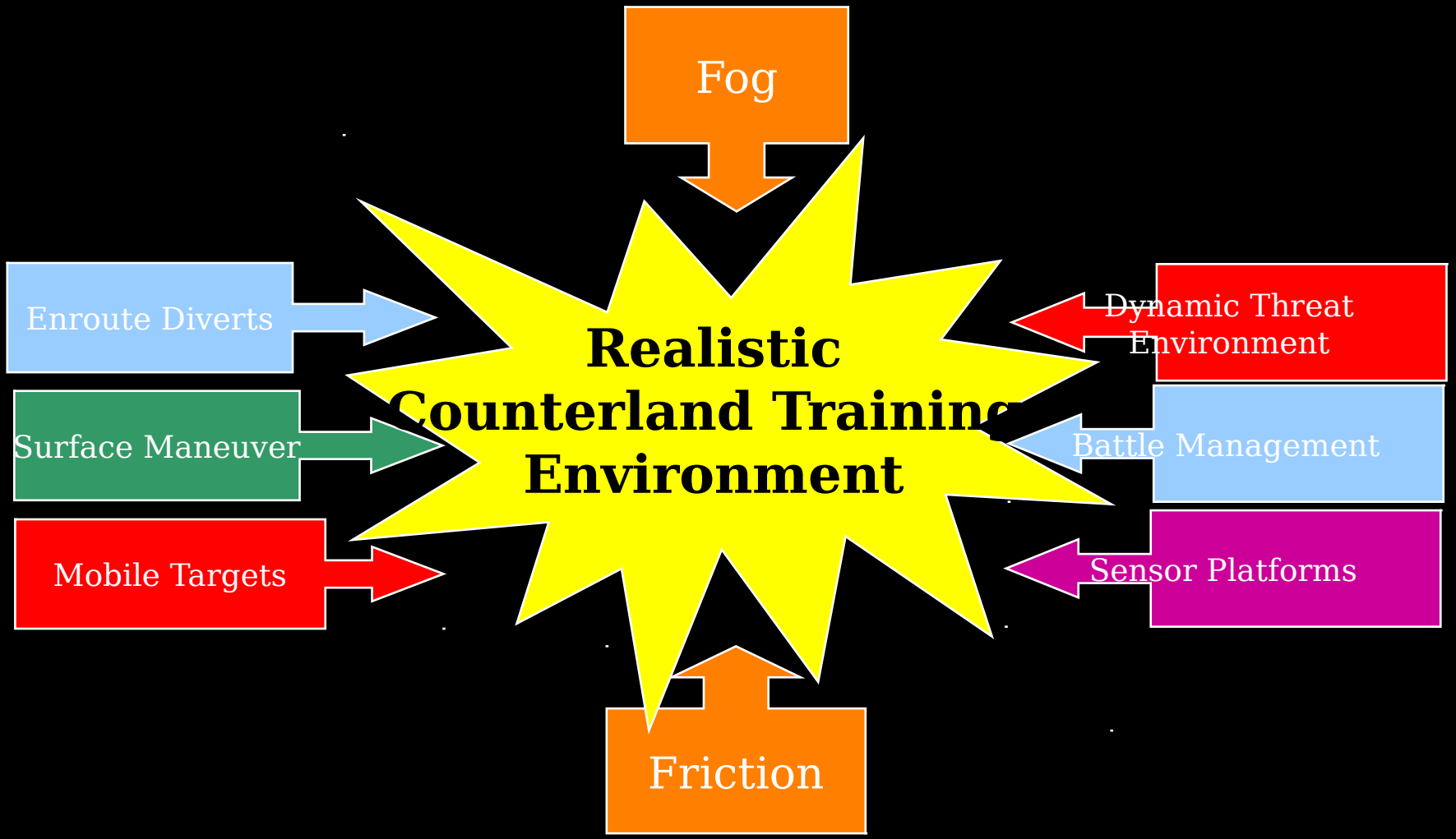
Training and Education



Training

- Future successful operations rely upon realistic training
- Counterland environments very difficult to replicate
  - Local training limitations
  - Red Flag and Air Warrior exercises
- Realistic training must link sensors, shooters, battle managers

Counterland Training



Education

- **Recommended Readings**
  - **Applicable AFDDs and Joint Publications**
    - AFDD 1, *Air Force Basic Doctrine*. 1997.
    - AFDD 2, *Organization and employment of Aerospace Power*. 1998.
    - US Army Field Manual 100-5, *Operations*. 1993.
    - Joint Pub 3-03, *Doctrine for Joint Interdiction Operations*. 1997.
    - Joint Pub 3-09.3, *Joint Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Close Air Support (CAS)*. 1995.

Education

Additional Readings

- Robert F. Futrell, *The United States Air Force in Korea* (Office of Air Force History). 1983.
- Benjamin F. Cooling (ed.), *Case Studies in the Development of Close Air Support* (Office of Air Force History). 1990.
- Eduard Mark, *Aerial Interdiction in Three Wars* (Center for Air Force History). 1994.
- Daniel R. Mortenson (ed.), *Airpower and Ground Armies* (Air University Press). 1998.
- Wing Commander J.C. Slessor, *Air Power And Armies* (Oxford University Press). 1936.
- Stephen T. Hosmer, *Psychological Effects Of U.S. Air Operations In Four Wars 1941-1991* (RAND). 1996.

Questions ?